

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting  
January 18, 2022  
6-7:30 pm  
Zoom

### **Virtual Sign-In**

[officers] Sally Phillips, Makaya Judge, Marilyn Lloyd, Carol Tomsic  
[neighbors] Davis William, Ginnie, Karen Mobley, Diane Birginal, Dennis Anderson, William & Theresa Bidowski, Chuck & Marcia Milani, Annika Tohlen, Colin Martin, Kathy, Jim VanderMeer  
[guests] Ofc Jake Willard, Betsy Wilkerson, Nate Gwinn, Amanda Beck, Annica Eagle

### **Neighborhood Updates**

#### **Officer Jake Willard**

Crime is down City-wide. In our district, crime is down 3.13%. The most increase in activity is theft, followed by assault.

#### **Council Member Betsy Wilkerson**

Thank you to Carol for being a council chair.

Homeless camps on 2nd & Freya. WSDOT served them with a vacate notice, but then didn't follow up. The City doesn't have the ability to close it. Until we have more low-barrier beds available there is not much that anyone can do right now. This didn't happen overnight; our housing crisis has been going on for years. People who are not housed feel the most safe in their own neighborhoods, so making them all go downtown does everyone a disservice.

#### **ARPA money**

Some of it helped to fund a remake of the Don Kardong Bridge. Parks in low income neighborhoods will have working bathrooms. Six million went towards housing. A pilot program for skilled trades was funded so that they can be paid while training. Money was set aside for daycare expansion. This Thursday Council will come forward with 5-6 more projects to vote on.

The City has hired Spencer Gardner as the new Planning Director and they are hiring a new HR director.

#### **Nathan Gwinn/Amanda Beck – Short Plats**

#### **Residential Code Initiatives: Range of Alternatives**

Nate and Amanda gave us a review of proposed residential code changes.

These development code adjustments are meant to work within the existing comprehensive plan. They have worked closely with neighborhoods to develop profiles of each neighborhood. The Housing Action Plan spelled out suggestions which included “increasing housing supply”. There are actions which the City can take to meet this goal. There are a range of housing types; single family, small multi-family, large multi-family, accessory dwelling. In the past, there have been many code amendments that set precedent for a move towards cottage housing and detached accessory units to try and expand housing options. Today’s proposed amendments would come in two phases. Below are some of the main proposed changes.

\*More flexibility in terms of lot size changes, and a quicker, easier permitting process.

\*Accessory Dwelling Units (aka Mother-in-law units) would have more flexibility with design, possibly not a requirement for owner occupancy.

\*Duplex/attached house requirements will be looked at to create updated design standards and find out what areas might be appropriate to build these. The City would like to encourage building of attached housing, so they may expand the number of units which are attached without requiring a planned unit development.

\*They are looking at the permit process for short subdivisions (up to nine lots). They would like to explore reducing time and/or cost of this process. They may also reduce notification methods, and potentially make it so that neighbors don’t need to have notice for public comment at all.

\*The City is looking into permitting short term rental codes everywhere which would encourage legalizing existing short-term rentals so that they can be regulated.

\*The final code change being proposed is related to environmental review. They are considering allowing exemptions for minor new construction (as permitted in the WAC). What that might look like might be that a project could go forward with NO SEPA notice going out to agencies including Tribes and environmental agencies.

Concerns or comments about this projects can be sent to [developmentcode@spokanecity.org](mailto:developmentcode@spokanecity.org)

Detail about the proposed housing code changes can be found at:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/shaping-spokane-housing/>

### **Dennis Anderson- Community Garden update**

The garden is coming along well. This year, they are adding ten more boxes. They are recruiting gardeners for this upcoming year. The NewTech program is building a 10x16 shed for the garden and the new garden beds! They will deliver these items in the spring of this year.

There is a garden luncheon scheduled in March as a fundraiser. They will have master gardeners as guest speakers. The event is on March 24th at 10:30 AM, and tickets are \$25/person and can be purchased through the Southside Community Center.

### **Approve Minutes**

Approval of November and December minutes motioned by Carol.

No additions or corrections to the minutes.

Marylin, Marcia, Makaya, Sally, Carol voted yes. Minutes are approved.

## **Adjourn**

7:30 PM

## **Email Updates**

Mark your calendars. Our next traffic calming meeting will be 2/16/22 at 6 pm on Zoom. The City's neighborhood traffic calming program has changed to neighborhood issue-identification workshops. This meeting will help us prepare for the workshops. We will be joined by City Council President Breean Beggs. We will also have an update on the results of our 2021 Mobile Speed Sign placements.

Here is a Library update from Thomas Herrlinger: The South Hill branch is waiting for bids to come in before moving forward with the remodel. This is expected to happen sometime during the end of January. Aside from that, The Hive and Liberty Park are very busy places. The meeting spaces are popular and the Children's area at Liberty Park sees a lot of family use, especially during the winter.

We have two proposed zoning changes on two parcels in our neighborhood: 2402 E 31st Ave (Residential Single Family to Residential Multi-Family) and 2621/2623 E 27th Ave (Residential Two-Family to Residential Multi-Family). Our council will keep you updated on the process. Attached are two rezone maps courtesy of Liam Taylor.

Bob Hilmes presented at our December meeting on the North/South Corridor. Our council is still in the process of learning more about the corridor and its effects on our neighborhood. Attached is his slide presentation. Let us know your thoughts.

Garrett Jones, director of Parks and Recreation, gave a Parks Master Plan update at our December meeting. Here is a link to the Park's interactive map to make your comments and/or suggestions. <https://dws.mysocialpinpoint.com/spokane-parks-and-natural-lands-master-plan>